

GUNPOWDER COPPER WORKS - 1814 - 10910 Harford Road at Great Gunpowder Falls. Levi Hollingsworth built a copper rolling mill here and rolled high quality copper sheathing that was used in the old Capitol dome at Washington and also sheeting for plating the hulls of wooden vessels. The plant closed down when Baltimore City acquired the land for water supply purposes in 1866. The city later sold the property as surplus. A number of mill dwellings, an ice house, and various foundations survive. Structures found on both sides of the road; the springhouse on the west side was restored in 1970s by Maurice M. Brown (who lives in No. 10910). The structure on the west side at No. 10900 is a former dormitory and stable, now a dwelling (See BA 385), and the State-owned dwelling at No. 10841 on the east side was the Copper Smith's House, or Tilt-Hammer House, of the copper works, possibly new in 1818.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

GUNPOWDER COPPER WORKS

AND/OR COMMON

TRAMMEL HOUSE/TILT-HAMMER HOUSE

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

10910 Harford Road

CITY, TOWN

Greenwood

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Baltimore

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☒ PUBLIC☐ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☐ OCCUPIED☒ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☒ PARK☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

State of Maryland, Dept. of Natural Resources Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Land Records Office

STREET & NUMBER

Baltimore County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Towson

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Maryland Historic Sites Inventory

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

6A-248

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT
☐ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☐ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☐ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The "Coppersmith's Shop" is a small fieldstone building, rectangular in plan, of one storey. It is built into a bank, giving basement access into the downhill (east) elevation. The roof is a gable, ridge running north and south, the gables filled with clapboards, suggesting that the present roof is not original. A small shed roofed stone addition has been made on the north wall (twentieth century). All fenestration on the first floor is vertical casement with diamond pane sash (wooden muntins), including a large five-sash west window. All other windows are paired casements including those of the attic, with square panes. There are two gabled dormers on the west elevation, a single shed dormer on the east. The structure was converted to a residence in the 1920's (Brown interview) and very little of what remains, except the stone walls themselves, relates to the structure's original use.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

| PERIOD | | AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW | | | |
|---|---|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING | <input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499 | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION | <input type="checkbox"/> LAW | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599 | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS | <input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE | <input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699 | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY | <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> ART | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) | |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION | | | |

SPECIFIC DATES early 19th century BUILDER/ARCHITECT _____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The house on Harford Road known as the Coppersmith's shop was part of the Gunpowder Copper Works founded by Levi Hollingworth at that site. The raw material was imported into Baltimore (principally from Wales) and transported to the Mill overland. The Copperworks may have been established as early as 1804, although there is an ad in the Maryland Journal of September 5th, 1811 letting the mill at that time. It is traditionally held that the copper in the dome of the U.S. Capitol was processed at the Gunpowder works. There was a severe fire in 1875, rebuilding was immediate. The operation was sold to Baltimore City as part of a program to improve the city's water supply. It was sold as excess in the 1880's and returned to private ownership. The so-called Coppersmith's Shop was a tilt-hammer house in which copper was pounded into sheets. It became a residence only after 1925, and probably served a more utilitarian purpose in the interval between the closing of the mill and its latest occupation (Brown Interview). The only original parts of the structure are the stone walls, the majority of details and fenestration belonging to the early 20th century "restoration".

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Notes of John McGrain, Baltimore County Planning

Telephone interview with Mr. Maurice Brown, resident of one of the Copperworks buildings

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

N/A

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

N/A

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

John McGrain/John Hnedak

ORGANIZATION

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

| | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| 1. STATE Maryland COUNTY Baltimore TOWN _____ VICINITY Dist. XI STREET NO. Harford Road at Great Gunpowder Falls ORIGINAL OWNER _____ ORIGINAL USE _____ PRESENT OWNER _____ PRESENT USE _____ WALL CONSTRUCTION _____ NO. OF STORIES _____ | | HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY BA-249248 | |
| | | 2. NAME Gunpowder Copper Works DATE OR PERIOD 1804 STYLE _____ ARCHITECT _____ BUILDER _____ | |
| | | 3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE _____ | |
| 4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION OPEN TO PUBLIC | | | |
| <p>Copper mill built here by Levi Hollingsworth; metal shipped to Baltimore from Wales; hauled to the mill by oxcart. Copper used for the Capital dome in Washington, D. C. came from this mill. Closed in 1883 and sold. The stone foundation remains and two mill houses which are still occupied.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(second HABS report) E. Frances Offutt HABS COMMITTEE OF BALTIMORE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY March 20, 1968</p> | | | |
| 5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endangered Interior Exterior | | | |
| 6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional) | | 7. PHOTOGRAPH | |
| 8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages) INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC. | | 9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER DATE OF RECORD | |

Baltimore American, September 19, 1843.

VALUABLE COPPER WORKS to Rent

The extensive and valuable copper works owned by the heirs of the late Levi Hollingsworth, carried on for the last 20 years by the late John McKim, Jr., & Sons, and known as the "Gunpowder Copper Works," are now offered for lease, thus giving an opportunity to capitalists to embark in a business which the experience of years had proved to be safe and lucrative. These works consist of a SHEET MILL, built of stone, 50 feet by 65, containing two pairs of 40 inch Rollers, with all their fixtures; two pairs of large shears operated by a water wheel, 19 feet long, 16 feet diameter, and two Annealing Furnaces, with all the tools and implements necessary.

A TILT AND BOLT MILL, 30 feet by 50 containing a pair of grooved Rollers for making bolt-rods from 3-8 inch to 2 inches diameter, a Tilt-Hammer for raising still and kettle bottoms operated by a water-wheel 9 feet long and 16 feet diameter; two furnaces, blacksmith shop, Carpenter and Turning Shop, Nail machine, &c, &c.

Two REFINING SHOPS, in each of which is a large refining Furnace, in addition to these are a SLAG FURNACE; Coal Houses and homes for workmen. These works are in good order with every convenience for the manufacturing of Sheet and bolt copper, sheathing nails, &c, and when in full operation, competent to manufacture 1,000,000 to 1,500,000 lbs. of Copper annually. The Dam is substantial and in good condition, and the water power is among the best in the vicinity of Baltimore, and is more than sufficient in the driest season.

The country abounds in wood, which can always be procured at a low price. The favorable location of these works, being healthy, and on a good graveled turnpike, and not above ten miles from Baltimore, where there is a large and increasing market for manufactured copper, and where the raw material can always be obtained on favorable terms, renders them an object worthy the attention of capitalists.

For further information, apply to the subscribers,

A.D. HOLLINGSWORTH

on the Premises

or Zebulon H. Cooch, Wood street, Bowly's Wharf

from John McKim
10/20/80

A building 60 x 90 feet was destroyed by fire September 12, 1875, while rented to Pope and Cole by Baltimore City. ... all machinery was saved ... FireMarshall's Report, p. 224.

The Copper Factory Sale. -- At a meeting of the Water Board held on the 9th inst. a report of the sale of the old Copper Factory, on the Harford Road, in the 11th District, to H.E. Shimp at \$2,350.50, was made. The water board, however, reserved all the water rights."

--Maryland Journal, Towson, May 14, 1887, p. 3.

Mr. Maurice Brown reported to J. McGrain in 1974 that he measured the main mill ruin at 74 x 54.

"THE GUNPOWDER COPPER WORKS ... /election of directors .../ The works of the company are located on the Harford Road, at the Gunpowder River ten miles from Baltimore. The mills were originally built in 1814, but were burned in 1875, and afterwards rebuilt. About thirty hands are employed in turning out sheet and rod copper. Mr. George H. Riley is the manager."

--Baltimore County Union, Towson, March 31, 1877.

"From Baltimore to the Copper Factory, the road is an excellent turnpike, having a bed of broken stone at the bottom and a good coat of gravel on top; this portion of the road is in a perfect state of completion; its length is 11 miles 138 yards."

"From the Copper Factory to Bel-Air, there is a traveled road ..."

-"Letter from the Postmaster General Transmitting A Report of General Bernard, of Surveys of Routes for A Post Road from Baltimore to Philadelphia," 1827.

Entire property ... 303 acres ... and a mill was offered for sale by the Water Board of Baltimore City, Baltimore County Union, May 16, 1885.

WHITE
MARSH
QUAD

BA-248





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